

An Abstract of the Acts of Parliament.

For Officers and Soldiers to Set up and follow Trades: And for the Payment of their Arrears, &c. As also that for the Branding Felons in the Left Cheek. And for Making Billingsgate a Free Market for Fish. And that for Raising the Militia of this Kingdom. As also, the Act to Prohibit the Exportation of Wooll into foreign Parts; and Encouragement of the Woollen-Manufactures.

The said Acts being made by the Honourable Parliament of England, in the Eleventh Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord King WILLIAM the Third, of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith.

Published for the better Direction of such as shall endeavour the Due Execution thereof.

An Abstract of the Act for Officers and Soldiers, who have served His Majesty during the late War, to Exercise and follow Trades: And for Officers to account with, and Pay their Soldiers.

There hath been, and are several Officers and Soldiers, who have served His Majesty in the late Wars; some of which were Men that used and followed Trades, who had not served out their Times, (and the Wars being now ended) would willingly Employ themselves in those Trades which they were accustomed to; but are, or may be hindered in certain Cities and Corporations from Exercising them by certain by-Laws, made in the 4th Year of Q. Elizabeth, prohibiting those who have not served as an Apprentice to such Trade for the space of Seven Years. Therefore for the Relief of such, it is Enacted, That all such Officers and Soldiers, who have been Employed in the King's Service since His Majesty's coming to the Crown, provided they have not since deserted the said Service, and have hitherto used or followed any Trade, or were Apprentices to any Trade, though they did not serve out the time of their Apprenticeship, employed as aforesaid, may set up and Exercise such several and respective Trades or Occupations as they were Bound Apprentices to; or any other, that he was never bound Apprentice to the same, and may Set up, Exercise, and Follow such respective Trades, as fully as if they had served out their respective Times for which they were Bound, and shall have and enjoy the same Privilege as they should have done, if they had served out their said full Terms, or Times, and may set up and Exercise such Trades as they are apt and able for, in any Town or Place within the several and respective Counties wherein they were Born, without any Let, Suit, or Molestation whatsoever. And in case any Officers, Soldier, or Soldiers, should be Sued or Indicted in any Court whatsoever, for using or following such Trades, as aforesaid, Then the said Officers, Soldier, or Soldiers, making it appear to the Court where they are so sued or indicted, That they have served the King's Majesty, as aforesaid, shall upon the general Issue pleaded be found not guilty, in any such Pleint, Bill, Information or Indictment, exhibited against them: And the Person who shall so prosecute their said Suit, shall have a Verdict against them, or become Non-suit thereon; such Person or Persons shall pay unto such Officer, or Officers, Soldier, or Soldiers, treble cost of Suit, to be recovered as in any other Costs at Common-Law. And a Judge and Juries, before whom such Suit and Indictment shall be brought, and all other Persons whatsoever are to take notice of this present Act, in order to Conform themselves thereto, notwithstanding any Law, or Statute, or Custom to the contrary. And further, for the better Encouraging, and enabling the Disbanded Soldiers (other than Commission-Officers) in order for the setting up and following their Trades, as aforesaid, It is further hereby Enacted, That such of the Disbanded Soldiers (other than Commission-Officers) as shall so set up and manage their Trades, as aforesaid, with their Stock and Tools used in or about Exercising their said Trades, shall, and are hereby Freed for the space of three Years, to be accounted and commenced from the first Day of May, 1699, from having either their Persons Arrested or Imprisoned, or their said Stock or Tools seized or taken in Execution for any Debt or Monies that was or were owing by them, either or any of them, at any time when they were first respectively Lifted or Entered into His Majesty's Service, notwithstanding any former Law to the contrary. Provided that if any Person, pretending themselves to have been Officers or Soldiers, with an intent to have the benefit of this Act, shall produce a false Certificate, and be convicted thereof, either by Confession or due Course of Law, shall suffer Imprisonment, (not exceeding three Months) and to lose the benefit of this Act, any thing therein to the contrary notwithstanding.

And further, None to have the benefit of this Act, but such as shall prove his Service aforesaid, either by a Certificate under the Hand and Seal of some Field-Officer, or two Commission-Officers of the Regiment where he served, or some General of the Army, certifying his knowledge of the Service aforesaid; and the said Certificate to be proved by one Witness at least, to be a true one, or otherwise by the Oath of two Credible Witnesses at least. And it is further Enacted, That every Pay-master on or before the first day of June, 1699, shall state their Accounts respectively of each Regiment, Disbanded or not Disbanded; and if in case here shall appear thereon to be any Money due to the said Regiments issued for that purpose, remaining in the Pay-masters Hands, the said Arrears shall be forthwith paid to the Colonels of the said Regiment, having first delivered them their stated Accounts, as aforesaid.

It is also further Enacted, That the several Colonels of the Disbanded Regiments, shall forthwith state the Account with the several Captains of the several Troops and Companies, &c. and within ten Days after they have received such Monies, as is due to such Captains, and their Troops, and Companies, &c. shall pay over such Monies as shall be found in their Hands (aforesaid) to such Captains, which said Captains are hereby required in like manner within ten Days, to account with and Pay to every particular Officer, Private Centinel and Soldier, or to those who have right to receive the same, all such Monies as shall justly appear to be due to them, under the Penalty of Forfeiting double the Sum due (as aforesaid) To be Recovered from every such Colonel, Agent, or Captain, who shall refuse to do, and perform their Duties hereby enjoyn'd.

An Abstract of the Act for the better prosecuting Shop-lifting, and punishing of Felons that commit House-breaking, or Horse-stealing, &c.

For the better Preventing of House-breaking, Shop-lifting, &c. and Stealing of Horses, and other Notorious Crimes too frequently committed. It is Enacted, That all and every Person or Persons, that shall either by Night or Day, (from and after the 20th of May, 1699.) Feloniously steal any Goods or Merchandizes, being of the value of Five shillings, or more, out of any Shop, Warehouse, Coach-house, or Stable, (although not actually broke open by such Offender or Offenders) or shall assist, or hire, or command any Person to commit such Offence, being thereof Convicted by Confession or Indictment, shall by virtue of this Act, be absolutely debarred and excluded of and from the benefit of the Clergy.

And it is also further Enacted, that from and after the said 20th of May, 1699. All Persons who shall Apprehend and take any Person guilty of any of the Felonies aforesaid, and prosecute him, her or them, until they be convicted of the said Crimes. Such Apprehenders and Takers, shall for their Reward (without any Fee paid for the same) forthwith after such Conviction, have a Certificate from under the hands of the Judge, Justice, or Justices, before whom such Conviction shall be had; Certifying such Conviction, and where the Felony was committed; and where the Offender were Apprehended, Discovered, and Taken; &c. By virtue of which, and this present Act, the said Person or Persons having right thereto, shall and may be discharged, of and from all manner of Parish and Ward-Offices, within the Parish or Ward wherein such Felonies shall be committed; and such Party or Parties is hereby declared to be discharged therefrom.

And it is further Enacted, That in case any Person or Persons, shall happen to be Killed by any such House-breakers, Horse-stealers, or other Felons as aforesaid, by endeavouring to Apprehend him, her, or them, that then the Executors or Administrators of such Persons so Killed, shall have the said Certificate in manner as aforesaid, with out Fee or Reward.

And it is further Enacted, That if any Person or Persons, from and after the said 20th of May, 1699. Shall commit any Burglary, House-breaking or Felony, from whom the Benefit of the Clergy is by this Act taken away; and being out of Prison, shall discover Two, or more Persons, who hath or shall commit any such House-breaking, Horse-stealing, or Felony, as aforesaid, and shall be convicted thereof, or cause them to be discovered, and apprehended, who shall be convicted, as aforesaid such Discoverer shall have His Majesty's Pardon for the Crimes aforesaid, which he, she, or they have committed at any time before such Discovery was made; which Pardon shall be a good Bar to any Appeal brought, or to be brought for such House-breaking, Horse-stealing, or Felony.

And moreover, many Notorious Persons might be deterred from offending, by a visible Punishment by Law to be inflicted on such, It is further Enacted, That from and after the said 20th of May, 1699. all, and every Person and Persons, that shall be convicted for any Theft, or Larceny, and shall have the Benefit of the Clergy allowed thereupon, or ought to be Burnt in the Hand for the same; instead of being Burnt in the Hand, shall with the Usual Mark be Burnt in the most visible part of the Left Cheek, nearest the Nose; which Punishment shall be inflicted in open Court, in the presence of the Judge, who is hereby required to see the same strictly and effectually performed, notwithstanding any former Law or Statute to the contrary.

And by reason the Executive Vices that are often demanded by Clerks of Assize, of Persons that are Witnesses against Felons, tend very much to the hindring their Conviction; To remedy the same for the future, It is Enacted, That no Clerk of Assize, Clerk of the Peace, or other Person whatsoever, shall Demand or Receive any Fee or Reward of any Person whatsoever, that shall be bound to appear to give Evidence against any Traytor or Felon, for the Discharge of any Recognizance for such Appearance. Nor shall receive no more than two shillings for Drawing any Bill of Indictment against any such Felon, upon the Forfeiture to the Person so grieved, for every such Offence the sum of Five Pounds, with full Costs of Suit.

An Abstract of the Act for Making Billingsgate a Free Market for Sale of Fish.

In order to prevent the Irregular Methods and Practices used by new Impositions and Tolls, and the Fore-stalling of Markers, &c. It is Enacted, That from and after the 10th Day of May, 1699. Billingsgate-Market, within the City of London, shall be Every Day in the Week (except Sunday) a Free and Open Market for all sorts of Fish whatsoever: And it shall be Lawful for any Person, to Buy or Sell any sort of Fish, without any Disturbance or Hindrance whatsoever.

And for the better Encouragement of the said Fishery, It is hereby further Enacted, That no Person whatsoever, Selling any sort of Fish in the said Market, shall from and after the 10th Day of May, pay any other Toll or Duty to any Person or Persons whatsoever, for coming with his Boat or Vessel, or Landing, Standing, or Selling in or at the

Market of Billingsgate, than what is hereafter expressed, viz. For every Vessel of Salt Fish, for Groundage, Eight Pence per Day, and Twenty Pence per Voyage, and no more, in full for all Duties and Demands, to be distributed and disposed of as the Lord Mayor, &c. shall Yearly order and direct, according to the Right of the Respective Persons thereunto. For a Lobster-Boat, for Groundage per Day Two Pence; and per Voyage Thirteen Pence, and no more in full, as aforesaid. And for every Vessel of fresh Sea-Fish, Groundage per Day Two Pence, and per Voyage Thirteen Pence, in full, as aforesaid. And for every Dogger-Boat, or Smack, with Sea-Fish, for Groundage per Day Two Pence, and per Voyage Thirteen Pence in full Demands, as aforesaid. For every Oyster-Vessel, or Cock, for Groundage per Day Two Pence, for Metage One Half-penny per Buibel, and no more.

And further, It is Enacted, That it shall and may be Lawful for any Person whatsoever, who shall buy any Fish in the said Market, to sell the same again in any other Market, Place, or Places within the City of London, or elsewhere, by Retail, being found and whollom Fish, without any Disturbance or Molestation for so doing.

And further it is Enacted, That from and after the 10th Day of May, 1699. any Person or Persons, taking or demanding any Toll or Sample, or any Imposition or Set-price of any Sea-Fish, of English Catching, shall Forfeit the Sum of Ten Pounds, the one half thereof to His Majesty, and the other half to such Persons as will sue for the same.

And further, considering the Irregular Practice that have been used by Fishmongers, by causing the greatest part of the Fish to be bought up at Billingsgate, and afterwards dividing the same by Lot among themselves, in order to Buy and Sell at what Rate they pleased; It is therefore Enacted, (to prevent the like for the future) That no Person or Persons whatsoever, shall at any time after the 10th Day of May, 1699. Buy, or cause to be Bought at the said Market of Billingsgate, any quantity of Fish to be divided by Lots among any Fishmongers, or other Persons, with an intent to be put afterwards to Sale by Retail, or otherwise. Nor shall any Fishmonger, after the said 10th Day of May, Ingross or Buy in the said Market any Quantity of Fish, but what shall be for his own Sale or Use, and not on the behalf of any other Fishmonger exposed to sale, on pain of Forfeiting the Sum of 20 Pounds for every such Offence, the one half to the use of the Poor of the Parish where he lives, and the other half to his own use, who shall Sue for the same. Provided notwithstanding that nothing contained in this Act, shall be Construed to prohibit the Selling of Mackerell before or after Divine Service on Sundays.

An Abstract of the Act for Raising the Militia for the Year 1699, &c.

Whereas it may be necessary for the Publick Safety of this Realm, to draw the Forces into actual Service, It is therefore Enacted, That if at any time before the 24th of June 1699. His Majesty shall find it necessary, for the Safety of this Kingdom, to draw out the said Soldiers into actual Service, the same being signified to the respective Lieutenants, or their Deputies, it shall be Lawful for any three or more of them, in pursuance of such Orders from His Majesty to Raise and Draw out the said Soldiers into actual Service, and to Cause the Persons charged, to provide each their Soldier with Pay in Hand, not exceeding one Month's Pay, in such manner as if all the Pay before that time, advanced and provided, had been Reimbursed and Paid. And it is Enacted, That where any Papist, or reputed Papist, or other Person, refusing to take the Oaths mentioned in the first Year of K. William and Q. Mary, when Lawfully tendered them, are not thought fit of setting out Horses and Arms in the Militia of this Kingdom; but in such a case, the Lieutenant or Deputy (in their absence) for the County where such Estates do lie, are hereby Authorized and Impowered to nominate and appoint such Persons as they shall think fit and proper to furnish and set out one or more Horses, Horse-men and Arms, or Foot-Soldiers and Arms for the said Estates, and shall and may charge the same Estates with the Payments of the Yearly sums, that is to say, for a Horse, Horse-man and Arms Eight Pounds: And for a Foot-Soldier and Arms, the sum of Thirty Shillings: And in case such Papist or Person refusing to take the Oaths, shall refuse to pay the same upon Demand, if shall and may be lawful for the said Lieutenants, or three or more of the said Deputy-Lieutenants, by Warrant under their Hands and Seals, to levy the same by Sale of the Goods of such Persons so refusing, as aforesaid, or upon his or their several Tenant or Tenants, and the remaining Arrears from the said Persons refusing the discharge thereof for the like Services already performed, rendering the overplus to the party so distrained, all necessary Charges in Levying thereof, being first deducted. And the Tenants so Paying, or Distrained on, shall and are hereby Impowered, to deduct the same out of their Rents, payable for the said Estates. And further, Where two or more Persons are charged to find any Horse, or Foot-Soldier, and Arms, any three or more Deputy-Lieutenants of the same County, or other Place, or Limit, are hereby Authorized to Direct and Appoint who shall find the Horse and Arms, &c. and who shall be Contributors, and to sever the Sums of Money to be paid by every Contributor, in case the Contribution be not agreed by the Party; and if any Person so charged, shall refuse to pay his Proportion upon demand, that then it shall and may be lawful for three, or more, of the Deputy

Lieutenants as aforesaid, by Warrant under their Hands and Seals to levy by Distress and Sale of the Goods of the Person so neglecting or refusing to pay, if he be an inhabitant in the said County, Division, Limits, of the Cinque-Ports, &c. But if he dwells out of the said County, &c. then by Distress and Sale of the Goods of his Tenant or Tenants, or the Estates charged with the same proportion, rendering the overplus to the Party, all necessary Charge being first deducted: And the Tenant or Tenants is and are hereby Impowered to deduct or keep back the Sum so charged out of the Rent payable to his or their Landlord, as aforesaid.

An Abstract of the Act, to prevent the Exportation of Wooll, out of the Kingdom of England and Ireland, into Foreign Parts, and for the Encouragement of the Woollen-Manufactures, in the Kingdom of England.

It is Enacted, That no Person or Person whatsoever, shall from and after the 24th Day of June, 1699. Transport, Ship off, Carry or Convey, or cause to be Carried, Transported or Convey'd out of or from the Kingdoms of England, or Ireland, into any Foreign Dominions, States or Countries whatsoever, any Wooll, Wooll-fells, Shortlings, Wooll flocks, Mortlings, Worsted, Bay, or Woollen-yarn, Cloath, Serge, Bays, Kerseys, Shulloons, or any other Drapery Stuffs or Woollen-Manufactures whatsoever, made up or mixed with Wooll or Wooll-flocks, out of any Port or Place belonging to the Kingdoms aforesaid, into any Foreign Parts or Places whatsoever.

And further, for the more Effectual preventing any Persons from Ingaging in such unlawful attempt, it is Enacted, That all and every Offender and Offenders herein, shall be liable to these Forfeitures following, viz. Any or all of the said Goods above mentioned, or Wooll so Exported, Transported, Shipped off, Carried or Conveyed or Loaden, contrary to the true intent and meaning of this Act, shall be Forfeited, and that every Offender and Offenders therein, shall also Forfeit and Pay for every such Offence, the Sum of Five Hundred Pounds, and the Ship, Vessel, Barge, Boat, or other Bottom whatsoever, wherein such Commodities are Shipped or Laid on Board, as aforesaid, shall also be Forfeited, with all the Tackle, Apparel and Furniture; And the Masters, and Markers thereof, or any Porters, Carriers, &c. Or other Persons, knowing such Offence, and shall aid and assist therein; shall Forfeit the Sum of Forty Pounds, one half to him who shall sue for the same by Bill, Pleint or Information; and the other half towards the Encouragement of setting up, the Linnen Manufactures in Ireland; in which Suit, no Protection or Wager of Law shall be allowed.

And it is further Enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for any Person or Persons, to seize, take, and secure and convey, to his Majesties next Ware-house, all such Wooll, Wooll-fells, &c. As aforesaid, as he or they shall happen to see, find, know or discover to be laid on Board in any Ship, Vessel or Boat, in order to be Exported or Conveyed, contrary to the true intent and meaning of this Act, and all and every such Persons who shall seize or secure any such Ship, Vessel, or Goods as aforesaid, shall be Indemnified for so doing to all intents and purposes.

And for preventing any Confederacy, by any Commander of Ship, Vessel, &c. With any Person whatsoever concern'd in such Wooll, &c. as aforesaid. It is Enacted, That every Commander so neglecting or conniving at the Exportation of any Wooll, Ship, Vessel or Boat, as aforesaid, shall Lose and Forfeit all Pay and Wages due to him or them, and suffer Six Months Imprisonment, and be for ever incapable of serving his Majesty in any Office of the Navy.

F I N I S.